

New Hampshire State Committee on Aging (SCOA)

March 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Russ Armstrong, Candace Cole-McCrea, Richard Crocker, Chuck Engborg, Larry Flint, Mark Frank, Bob Ritchie, Joan Schulze

Excused: Katheryn Cauble, Sherri Harden, Herb Johnson, Sheila King, Tracey Tarr

Guests: Kathy Minaert, BEAS; Chris Rueggeberg, Development Disability Council; Roger Vachon, Engaging NH

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Rich Crocker. Attendees introduced themselves.

Motion to approve December 1, 2014 Minutes was approved. Motion to approve the January 5, 2015 Minutes. was approved with an amendment provided by Russ Armstrong.

Current Business and Updates:

Cindy Robinson from the Disability Rights Center came to the January 5 meeting and distributed a letter of recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding inclusions in the contract with the Managed Care Organizations. Rich was hoping to deliver the recommendations, with SCOA's support, to the Commissioner and Managed Care Commission as soon as possible. A motion was made to support submitting the recommendations to the Commissioner and seconded. All were in favor.

Managed Care Updates – Rich Crocker:

The Managed Care Commission has been working on a new set of concepts, principles and best practices related to managed care which they incorporated into a set of recommendations to send to the Governor's Office. The Governor's Office has formally supported of the Managed Care Commission recommendations.

Timelines have changed for Managed Care. People who are on the Home and Community Based Care Waiver also known as Choices for Independence (CFI), will not be entering Managed Care until January 2016. The timeline for nursing homes to come under Managed Care is not until July 1. 2016.

DHHS, as part of current fiscal year reductions in funding, could be losing about 7 million dollars that would have gone to nursing homes. The Nursing Home Association and the counties are upset about this because Medicaid does not pay 100 cents on the dollar for the services they provide. So it ends up on the county tax bills in order for the counties to keep providing services.

Who will determine eligibility for Medicaid long term care support and services? The state will continue to determine eligibility. The health plans will authorize CFI wavier services based on criteria approved by the Department. This process will be phased in as part of Step 2.

Master Plans - Mark Frank:

Mark is meeting with Christopher Northrop, Principal Planner for Office of Energy and Planning, to discuss master plans and updates of master plans. There needs to be an emphasis on "livable communities" as part of master plan goals. Every town should be looking at their master plan and include these kinds of goals. Master plans are supposed to be updated every 5 to 10 years. One-third of master plans in the state are outdated.

Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act – Rich Crocker:

The Senate is working on the act with only a few changes. If you want to learn more on this, just go to google.

State Plan on Aging – Tracey Tarr:

No update

State Budget – Rich Crocker:

The Department of Health and Human Services submitted its budget to the Governor. Now it is in the House phase. There will be some public hearings and Rich will send out an announcement with the dates. The House Finance Committee is going to various places this week and early next week to solicit input on the state budget. There is no change in the nursing home dollars and community based care dollars. Funding is basically flat.

Endowment for Health – Russ Armstrong:

The initiative on aging will probably take 5 years to be put into place. Not a lot is going to happen for the first couple of years. An invitation was sent to all SCOA members to attend a Retreat on March 13, 2015 at the Puritan Conference and Event Center.

HB – Chuck Engborg:

CACR 1 – Relating to taxation: It's on the regular calendar for this week. The majority is expected to vote inexpedient to legislate, and minority ought to pass.

CACR 11 – Constitutional amendment concurrent resolution provides that absentee voting is not limited to people who are absent or disabled - inexpedient to legislate, is off the bill.

Regular Calendar: Establish a committee to study end of life decision. Majority ought to pass, minority inexpedient to legislate.

Regular Calendar: Establishing a statutory commission to study the creation of state retirement, security program making and appropriation thereof-inexpedient to legislate.

HB 328 - Requiring delivery of absentee ballots: This would be about marking of the ballots and being able to be delivered by a family member.

HB 330 - Establishing an oversight commission on medical cost transparency: House has passed, adopted, and amended.

HB 337 – The bill declares that if a patient admitted to a facility is not of sound mind determined by a physician or a court, the wishes of the patient's immediate family or guardian shall take precedence over the provisions of the patient's bill of rights-inexpedient to legislate.

HB 411 - Prohibiting the payment of subminimum wages to person with disabilities. This is still open. The House Ways and Means Committee voted 20 to 0 ought to pass and they still have not filed a report to have it put on the calendar for next week. Companion Bill SB 47 (which is the same thing in the senate) is on the regular calendar. It ought to pass from the Commerce Committee. A motion of support was asked of the committee and seconded. The motion was passed.

HB 447 - Chris Rueggeberg, Relative to quorums for meetings under the right-to-know law: Changes on how a meeting is conducted under the right-to-know law. Currently all committee members need to be physically present to vote and conduct business. The change being proposed is that you can have an electronic meeting if you have a combination of people present at a physical meeting place or electronically able to participate in the meeting. That would constitute as a quorum as long as you have a majority of the committee members available either by electronic or physical presence. The bill is currently in the Judiciary Committee. They held their hearing last week and are going to vote on it on March 3rd. A motion of support was asked of the committee and seconded and the motion was passed. SCOA members will be emailing committee members of the Judiciary Committee.

HB 484 – Relative to the Board of Nursing and exemptions from licensure from the board: The bill would allow LPNs to distribute medications not just RNs. This does require special training for the LPNs. Members would like to wait on voting or supporting this bill until the next calendar.

SB 187 – Allows a patient to designate a caregiver upon entry to a hospital: Under this bill, the hospital shall instruct the caregiver relative on after-care of a patient. This is an AARP care bill, currently in the Senate of Health and Human Services committee. A motion of support was asked of the committee and seconded and the motion was passed. Rich will send out a letter of support to the chairperson of this committee.

Chuck will update the committee next week on all House Bills important to the committee.

NH Public Radio Exchange Program – Rich Crocker:

Rich spoke with Ellen Grimm, Executive Producer of the Exchange Program. They would like to do a piece on public long term care and something on non-publicly funded long term care. She was given the names of the Monadnock At Home, Endowment for Health, Upper Valley Interfaith Project and a number of things related to non-publicly funded long term care. Suggestions were made related to publicly funded long term care—John Poirier, someone from the County Association, DHHS officials, and community providers. Ellen indicated the show would probably air sometime in April.

Oral Health – Bob Richie:

The study committee is currently in listening mode. They are having speakers come to talk to them. They are trying to figure out where dental care is working and the status of citizens who can't afford it. The whole thing has to wrap up by November unless the study is extended. The next meeting is March 27. This was out of SB 193 from last year.

Vaughn Awards – Roger Vachon:

The State Committee on Aging and Engaging NH are sponsors for the award. The ceremony takes place on May 4. Invitations to nominate were sent out to committee members. There are 12 days left to nominate. Everyone who is nominated will receive a "Certificate of Commendation" from the committee. An individual cannot receive the award twice.

Cats & Dogs:

Rich – White House Conference on Aging: There is a regional meeting in Boston which is a listening session for policy direction.

Margaret Morrill emailed the committee asking for ideas on articles for the “Aging Issues” newsletter. The next issue will come out in mid-March. Russ suggested that Rich write an article on the challenges that are coming with the onset of the “baby boomers” and how the system will respond, and what the current policy and limitations are.

Larry Flint – The Governor’s Council on Physical Health and Activity is looking for people to nominate anyone from the following categories: work site employees, town and city organizations, community related organizations, school districts and youth related activities, disabilities organizations, and senior organizations---any group that is promoting healthy life styles in your community. Go to NHmoves.org for the form, “Outstanding Achievement Awards” to nominate. April 3 is the deadline for submission. May 29 is the ceremony.

Senior Leadership is not being held this year due to 2015 not being a political year, so they will have it in 2016.

Joan Schultze – Anyone who has Anthem insurance should sign up for their All Clear ID and stay away from Legal Shield because it is a scam.

Mark Frank – At the NH North Country Veterans Committee meeting, he received the latest update on the 2015 Homeless Veterans Resource Guide. This guide will go out to all local and state law enforcement.

Next meeting is April 6, 2015 from 10:00-12:30.